

HONOR AWARD

On February 18, 1965, the executive committee of the APTA met at the Princeton club and at that meeting decided to inaugurate the APTA honor award. In the past four years, the award has been presented to 21 individuals who have made significant contributions to the game of platform tennis - people who have contributed technically, contributed as founders and developers of the game, been champion players or been doers. All of these people have done most for platform tennis and have helped to make the game what it is today. It is fitting that they be so singled out. I'd like to take a moment to introduce to you past award winners who are here tonight.

And now it is with great pleasure that the awards committee presents to the association members two new award candidates.

Our first recipient is above all, a great athlete, a great guy and a great sportsman. Among other things, he is a champion platform tennis player. He doesn't play as much lawn tennis as platform tennis, but that hasn't seemed to have put him at any disadvantage on the paddle court. He has acquitted himself well in any tournament he has entered and has always been a potential finalist. He was a winner in the national men's doubles in 1956 and 1960 and runner-up in 1951 and 1958. He has been a semi-finalist numerous times. He won the senior men's doubles in 1963 and was runner-up in 1968.

He is extremely agile and his play is typified by amazingly fast reactions at net. Platform tennis is played at net at least half the time, and the volleying game here requires the great alertness and quickness this man has. Besides agility, he was also above the ken because of a tremendously strong forehand. Partners and opponents alike agree that few people hit a harder forehand. His forehand made for a consistently big and dangerous return of service.

Our recipient was also active in the APTA as rules and equipment chairman. During his tenure, and through his efforts the standard yellow-orange ball we now play with was developed. (I might add this ball is improving all the time.)

He and his partner have played together over a long period of time, and they typify that great sense of teamwork, which is a prerequisite in all championship teams.

He also has another team member. His most devoted wife who has suffered constantly under two months of strain trying to get her husband here tonight without telling him why. She persevered, and we're all grateful. Where would we be without George Harrison?